

Next *G. M. Tucker*

HOLLINGBOURN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORTS
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1913.



Maldstone :
YOUNG & COOPER, PRINTERS, BANK STREET.

1914.

To the Hollingbourn Rural District Council.

SUTTON VALENCE,

February 14th, 1914

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my 33rd Annual Report of the health of the district for the past year 1913, and trust that it will meet with your approval.

Scarlet Fever.—During the past year there have been notified 13 cases of Scarlet Fever, 11 of these were removed to the Infectious Hospital, of these cases 5 occurred at Bredhurst, 4 at Thurnham, 1 at Leeds, 1 at Lenham, 1 at East Sutton, and 1 at Boxley.

The first 2 cases at Bredhurst occurred in July, and on visiting them I found that these were imported cases from outside, the 3 other cases also had some connection to the first ones. The school children were inspected and the School premises disinfected.

The 4 cases at Thurnham were more difficult to account for, as one at least was well on in the peeling stage. I carefully examined the school children, but could find no evidence of peeling amongst them, and the School had a good average attendance.

The case at Leeds was an isolated one, and I came to the conclusion was caught at fruit-picking from foreign labour.

The case at Lenham also was in a peeling stage when notified, and again no further evidence, on school children being examined, could be found.

The case at East Sutton also was a solitary one, and difficult to trace, as there were no other cases known in Village or School.

The single case at Boxley was that of a married woman, who caught it off her baby, who had had a sore throat, but no rash. All these cases, as is my usual custom, were personally inquired into.

Diphtheria.—I am glad to say that during the past year only 4 cases of Diphtheria were notified. The first occurred at Langley Ponds, in an isolated cottage, in a child of 6 years old, and I could not account for it, except from the fact perhaps that when the stream is in flood it might possibly affect their water supply that runs into it.

The second case was in a Marine from Chatham, who was visiting his home on furlough; he was removed to Chatham Naval Hospital.

The 2 cases at Headcorn were clearly due to defective drainage, this has since been rectified.

Typhoid.—We have not had a single case reported during the whole year.

Erysipelas.—There were 9 cases of Erysipelas reported during the year, and were, as usual, due to climatic causes.

Poliomyelitis.—The single case of Poliomyelitis occurred at Headcorn in a strong, healthy boy of 11, and one of a large family. I have lately heard from the medical man in charge of this case that, though now some 6 months have elapsed, very little improvement in the paralysis has taken place. This case was nursed at home.

Tuberculosis.—During the past year there have been reported 18 cases of Tuberculosis, and these were pretty well distributed throughout the whole district. In nearly every instance they have had my personal attention and advice, and, as usual, in cases of death, the room and bedding have been thoroughly disinfected, the surroundings of the dwellings were looked into, and if any defects were discovered as to sanitation, dampness, etc., we had them rectified.

Puerperal Fever.—I am glad to say not a single case has

The following list of nuisances have been given me by Mr. Apps,

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Houses, Number of, inspected in pursuance of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	427
Houses, Number of, found in a satisfactory condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	216	
Houses, Number of, found in an insanitary condition	...	...	...	...	...	...	211	
								427
Notices, Statutory, served...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	
Notices, Intimative, served	...	...	...	...	...	...	148	
								211
Notices Complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	191	
Notices, Works in hand	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	
								211
House Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Houses provided with new W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Houses provided with Guttering	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Houses provided with Company's water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
House Refuse removed on complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
House Roofs and Gutterings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
House Floors and Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New Cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ Privies and Pits constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ Stoneware Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
„ Stoneware Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
„ Stoneware Waterpipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
„ Cast-iron Air-tight Covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
„ Cast-iron Ventilating Shafts provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
„ Rain Water Tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Privy Pits reconstructed and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Privies emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Pigstye nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Schools fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Slaughter Houses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cowsheds erected for 80 cows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wells examined, water submitted for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Houses inspected after infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Houses fumigated after infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Houses cleansed after infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Factories and Workshops inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Trade Inspections, including Cowsheds, Slaughter Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Manure and offensive matter removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1641
Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	517
New Glazed Stoneware Pipe Drainage laid, 7,488 feet.								

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—The Lenham Main Sewerage Scheme has at last been completed, and it now remains to make the connections as soon as possible; so far, only a few houses have been connected, and until the rest are completed it keeps the old Village Sewer in use, and also its pollution of the head of the river Stour. I would urge the owners of property at Lenham to have their connections made to the main sewer as soon as they can reasonably do so. As regards Harrietsham, I am still of the opinion that it requires a Sewerage Scheme, the three points of drainage from the Village all go into the Stream, which is the source of the River Len, and this Stream runs through the pastures where many cattle and milch cows are grazed, and constitutes a grave danger to the public.

Hollingbourn, Leeds, Ware Street, Thurnham, and the lower part of Ulcombe are still undrained, and remain as they were last year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The Sewerage Schemes at Sutton Valence continue to work well, and I have had no complaints.

The other Villages in the district which are without drainage have our constant attention.

Water Supply.—I think we may safely say that the Water Supply to this district is good, except to some out of the way parts of the Weald, and also the Villages of Bredhurst and Stockbury.

Since last year arrangements have been made to supply the Village of Wormshill, which was sadly in need of good water. The Village of Stockbury, I am sorry to say, is excluded from the Mid-Kent Water Bill of 1913, and the adjoining Village of Bredhurst is under the same category, and is even worse off for water during droughts than Stockbury.

As mentioned last year, a portion of Ulcombe is still dependent on one water tap mostly, but the reservoir on the hill, I hope, will soon be made, and water brought down the Village, though it could be laid on from Pye Corner below.

The district below Chart Hill, and that between Headcorn, Grafty Green and Lenham is still very inadequately supplied, as the Parish Councils all declined the offers of the Water Company. Forty-one fresh houses have been supplied from the water mains this year, making a total of houses supplied in the district of 1397.

General and Special Enquiries.—There was a Special Enquiry held in January, 1913, at Sutton Valence, for an Excess Loan for Drainage, and I believe this was granted.

The Housing and Town Planning Act.

Number of house-to-house inspections made.	Houses found in a satisfactory condition.	Houses found in an insanitary condition.	Notices, Statutory, served.	Notices, by intimation, served.	Complied with.
427	216	211	63	148	191

During the past year again great strides have been made under the above Act, and by the above plan will be seen that 427 inspections have been made, 216 of which houses were found in a satisfactory condition and 211 requiring some alteration as to their sanitary condition. To effect this, 63 Statutory Notices were served, 148 intimations by letter, and 191 have been complied with, the others are either in hand or being dealt with.

Hopper Houses.--During the past hopping season the hopper houses had our usual attention, and a house-to-house inspection was made as to their condition and construction, lighting and ventilation, and a report furnished to the Local Government Board. In nearly all instances we were fairly met by the owners, who in most cases were willing to conform with the Bye-laws, except in one instance, where a conviction was obtained at the Bearsted Petty Sessions for the non-compliance with the Bye-Laws relating to hopper houses.

A letter was sent out to all those in this district growing hops, asking for the number of pickers employed—men, women and children, and I have had replies from nearly every one. The conclusion I have come to on these replies is that about 2,000 pickers are employed, including children, and that about 400 huts are inhabited during the hopping season in this district.

Scavenging Schemes.—Nothing further has been done as regards any scavenging in the different Villages, and I am still a strong advocate for such systems in the larger villages.

Prosecutions.—During the past year 4 summonses were issued at the direction of the District Council for the infringement of, in two instances, the Public Health Act, 1875, one under Article 8 of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order, and one under the Byelaws relating to hopper houses, in all 4 of these convictions were obtained.

Dairy, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order.—This past year, besides our usual attention and visits being made, we have practically made a special survey of the whole of the Cowsheds in the district. I might mention this Act, as usual, creates some friction, as, though the Cowsheds themselves in most instances are well planned and drained, yet the cows themselves very often are kept far from clean; also heaps of manure, unless constantly supervised, are allowed to accumulate close to the sheds, and thus making a breeding ground for innumerable flies, which are a source of contamination to the milk. In some instances, also, I found the men's hands and clothes for milking far from clean. In one instance, under Article 8 of the Dairy and Cowsheds' Order, proceedings had to be taken, and a conviction obtained at the Bearsted Petty Sessions. Five new Cowsheds have been erected during the past year for the accommodation of 80 Cows, and there are 106 Cowkeepers on the Register.

Death Rate.—The death rate for the past year is 12·61 as compared with that of the previous year of 11·05.

The Infantile Mortality is lower than last year, the average for the last four years being only 68·22. Dr. Ponder, in his Report, says :—"It will be noticed that the Infantile Mortality rate is much lower than the average for other rural districts and the county as a whole. This must always be considered a good test of the sanitary standard of a district, and the low figure of 77 per thousand (being the average of the last 4 years) must be regarded as very satisfactory." Gentlemen, as mentioned above, this past year brings the average down to 68·22, and still more satisfactory. Dr. Ponder also refers to the small number of cases of notifiable diseases, another indication of sanitary standards. This past year the number of cases of notifiable cases is still lower. I should like to see the present Smallpox Block at the Infectious Hospital converted into one for Diphtheria and supply a need much required.

It will be noticed on Table III. there were no deaths from Typhoid, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria.

Cancer again in its various forms caused 22 deaths, Heart Diseases 25 deaths, Tuberculosis in its various forms 11 deaths, Bronchitis 14 deaths. There were four deaths from violence, and none from suicide. There were 162 deaths from all causes during the year 1913.

I give the death rates in some of the larger Parishes :—

Leeds 13·84, Headcorn 10·1, Sutton Valence 14·88, Chart Sutton 4·67, Ulcombe 9·64, Langley 13·77, Lenham 11·93, Harriets-
sham 10·45, Hollingbourn 5·28, Boxley 12·75, Detling 10·38, Thurn-
ham 8·63, Stockbury, 13·42.

The Birthrate is lower than usual, being 19·53.

As regards the want of Cottages in the district, there is undoubtedly a general shortage throughout the district, but it is difficult to give definite facts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I may mention that Dr. Ponder, the Assistant Medical Officer of the County, made a Special Report of this district, which on the whole, I think I may safely say, is distinctly favourable. He says, as regards the housing, "The standard of housing is undoubtedly high in this district, and it was rare to find houses that could be described as unfit for habitation."

I had the pleasure of going round parts of the district with Dr. Greenwood and Dr. Ponder, and I have to thank them for their courtesy and advice, not only then, but at all times, and in cases of difficulty.

I am,

Yours obediently,

G. M. TUKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.†		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.		Number * 6	Rate. 7	of Non- residents registered in the District. † 8	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. † 9	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number † 4	Rate. 5					Number * 10	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11	Number * 12	Rate.
1	2	3										
1908	12,650	304			139	10·98	—	—	25	82·23	139	10·98
1909	12,650	280			153	12·09	—	—	23	82·14	153	12·09
1910	12,650	260			155	12·25	—	—	18	69·23	155	12·25
1911	12,846	227			140	10·89	2	22	17	74·88	160	12·45
1912	12,846	260	261	20·32	142	11·05	4	16	21	80·76	154	11·20
1913	12,846	249	251	19·53	151	11·75	4	15	12	48·0	162	12·61

NOTES.—This Table is arranged to show the gross births and deaths in the district, and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. For years before 1911 some of the corrected rates probably will not be available. The rates should be calculated per 1000 of the estimated gross population. In a district in which large Public Institutions for the sick or infirm seriously affect the statistics, the rates in Columns 5 and 13 may be calculated on a nett population, obtained by deducting from the estimated gross population the average number of inmates not belonging to the district in such institutions.

*In Column 6 are to be included the whole of the deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district.

In Column 12 is to be entered the number in Column 6, corrected by subtraction of the number in Column 8 and by addition of the number in Column 9. Deaths in Column 10 are to be similarly corrected by subtraction of the deaths under 1, included in the number given in Column 8, and by addition of the deaths under 1 included in the number given in Column 9.

†The Medical Officer of Health will be able from the returns made to him by the local Registrar of Deaths, as well as from the quarterly lists furnished by the Registrar-General, to fill in Column 8 in accordance with the rule in the next paragraph below. The Registrar-General, either directly or through the County Medical Officer of Health, will supply the Medical Officer of Health with the particulars of deaths to be entered in Column 9; and all such deaths must be included in this Column, unless an error is detected, and its correction has been accepted by the Registrar-General. For Column 4 the Registrar-General will furnish to the Medical Officer of Health a Statement of the number of births needing to be added to or subtracted from the total supplied by the local Registrar.

‡“Transferable Deaths” are deaths of persons, who, having a fixed or usual residence in England or Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided. The deaths of persons without fixed or usual residence, e.g., casuals, must not be included in Columns 8 or 9, except in certain instances under 3 (b) below. The Medical Officer of Health will state in Column 8 the number of transferable deaths of “non-residents” which are to be deducted, and will state in Column 9 the number of deaths of “residents” registered outside the district which are to be added in calculating the nett death-rate of his district.

The following special cases arise as to Transferable Deaths:—

(1) Persons dying in Institutions for the sick or infirm, such as hospitals, lunatic asylums, workhouses, and nursing homes (but not almshouses) must be regarded as residents of the district in which they had a fixed or usual residence at the time of admission. If the person dying in an Institution had no fixed residence at the time of admission, the death is not transferable. If the patient has been directly transferred from one such Institution to another, the death is transferable to the district of residence at the time of admission to the first Institution.

(2) The deaths of infants born and dying within a year of birth in an Institution to which the mother was admitted for her confinement should be referred to the district of fixed or usual residence of the parent.

(3) Deaths from Violence are to be referred (a) to the district of residence, under the general rule; (b) if this district is unknown or the deceased had no fixed abode, to the district where the accident occurred, if known; (c) failing this, to the district where death occurred, if known; and (d) failing this, to the district where the body was found.

At Census of 1911: Total population at all ages, 12,846; number of inhabited houses, 2,800; average number of persons per house, 5.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 57,670.

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.							Total cases notified in each Locality (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages†—Years.						1	2	3	4	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65					
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera and Plague.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).....	4	1	2	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	4	—
Erysipelas	9	—	—	2	3	4	—	9	3	—	6	—
Scarlet Fever.....	13	—	11	2	—	—	—	13	10	1	2	11
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis.....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	18	—	3	3	9	2	—	18	4	3	11	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis...*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	45	2	17	7	13	6	—	45	17	4	24	11

NOTES.—State in space below the name and position within or without the district of the isolation hospital or hospitals, sanatoria or other institutions to which the residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, have usually been sent, and the name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided.
* This space may be used for record of other diseases the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.
† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Isolation Hospital—Infectious Hospital, Hollingbourn.

Total available beds, 22. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

Table III.—Causes of and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

(See Notes on next page).

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of “Residents” whether occurring within or without the District (a).									Total Deaths whether of “Residents” or “Non-Residents” in Institutions in the District (b). 11
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 & under 2 years. 4	2 & under 5 years. 5	5 & under 15 years. 6	15 & under 25 years. 7	25 & under 45 years. 8	45 & under 65 years. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
All causes { Certified (c) Uncertified	162	12	7	2	2	9	15	34	81	19
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8	...	...	...	1	4	3	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	22	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	13	1
Rheumatic Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (see note d)	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	25	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	13	4
Bronchitis	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	6	2
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (see note e) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright’s Disease	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth.....	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, exclud- ing Suicide	4	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
Suicide .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	45	2	3	1	...	1	1	8	29	6
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
TOTALS	162	12	7	2	2	9	15	34	81	19

NOTES TO TABLE III.

- (a) All "Transferable Deaths" of residents, *i.e.*, of persons resident in the District who have died outside it, are to be *included* with the other deaths in columns 2-10. Transferable deaths of non-residents, *i.e.*, of persons resident elsewhere in England and Wales who have died in the District, are in like manner to be *excluded* from these columns. For the precise meaning of the term "transferable deaths" see footnote to Table I.

The total deaths in column 2 of Table III. should equal the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

- (b) All deaths occurring in institutions for the sick and infirm situated within the district, whether of residents or of non-residents, are to be entered in the last column of Table III.
- (c) All deaths certified by registered Medical Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified;" all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."
- (d) Exclusive of "Tuberculous Meningitis" (10), but inclusive of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
- (e) Title 19 should be used for deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis at all ages. (In the "Short List" deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years are included under Title 19; those at 2 years and over being placed under Title 28).

Table IV.—Infant Mortality during the year 1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes.	Certified ...		2	1	...	1	4	4	2	1	1	12
	Uncertified		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous												
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal												
Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous												
Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital												
Malformations (c)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and												
Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	3
Other Causes...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	4
Totals	...	...	2	1	...	1	4	4	2	1	1	12

Nett Births in the year—Legitimate, 246 ; illegitimate, 5.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 11 ; illegitimate infants, 1.

(a) The total in the last column of Table IV. should equal the total in column 10 of Table I., and in column 3 of Table III.

(b) Under Abdominal Tuberculosis are to be included deaths from Tuberculous Peritonitis and Enteritis and from Tabes Mesenterica.

(c) The total deaths from Congenital Malformations, Premature Birth, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, should equal the total in Table III. under the heading Congenital Debility, and Malformation including Premature Birth.

Want of Breast Milk should be included under Atrophy and Debility.

(d) For references to the meaning of any other headings, see notes attached to Table III.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	14	2	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	127	26	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	56	10	—
Total	197	38	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M., Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	17	17	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	6	6	—	—
Other Nuisances	16	16	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	—	—	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective	6	6	—	—
{ Not separate for Sexes...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—	—
Total	45	45	—	—

3. OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.		Number.	
Homeworkers :—		Lists.	Out-workers.
List of Outworkers :—			
Lists received		—	—
Addresses of Out-workers	Forwarded to other Authorities	—	
	Received from other Authorities	—	
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—		Wearing Apparel.	Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (s. 108)		—	—
Cases of infectious diseases notified in homeworkers' premises		—	—
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (s. 110).		—	—
Workshops in Register at the end of the year 1913 :—			
Workshops.....			76
Workshop Bakehouses			10
Total number of Workshops on Register.....			86
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—			
Failure to affix abstract of Factory and Workshop Act, (s. 133)			—
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspector		—
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector		—
Other			—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—			
Certificates granted during the year 1913			—
In use at the end of the year 1913			—

Hollingbourn Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR for 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the above Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report relating to the year ended December 31st, 1913, and have prepared similar tables to those of previous years for your more ready comparison.

The past year has shown considerable increase in sanitation.

At the early part of the year a general inspection of your district was made by Dr. Constant Ponder, Assistant County Medical Officer, whose report is the first of a series of such reports in connection with the different Urban and Rural Districts in Kent.

Several matters referred to in the report have been taken in hand and the work completed, chief among which, certain houses at Platts Heath, Lenham, and others near the "Old England," Hollingbourn; these chiefly concerned general structure and water supply. There are other matters of import which will doubtless appear in the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health.

My thanks are due to Dr. Ponder for the valued information and assistance given during the period of his visit in your district.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.—It will be seen by reference to the general statistics, appearing in the Medical Officer's report, that 427 houses have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act. Out of the number examined 211 were found in an insanitary condition.

The Council will be interested to know that 191 houses have been put into a reasonable, habitable condition, and that work was in hand at the remaining 20, on December 31st, 1913.

As will be found in the statistics, the drainage of 72 houses has been reconstructed, 51 new w.c.'s provided with water supply and flushing apparatus. In 84 cases new glazed sinks with waste pipes were provided, 125 inspection chambers with cast iron air-tight covers, constructed, and 72 cast iron ventilating shafts erected. Twenty-six houses provided with new guttering, 213 cesspools and privy pits emptied and cleaned, 33 new cesspools and 13 new privies with pits constructed and ventilated, 106 cowsheds and 10 bakehouses cleaned and limewashed, in 73 cases house refuse or manure removed on complaint; 31 nuisances arising from the keeping of animals abated; 6 new rainwater tanks constructed, and 41 houses supplied with water from the Company's main, chiefly on account of the Council requiring the owners to provide to their premises a sufficient and wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes; 7,488 feet of glazed stoneware pipes with water-tight joints were laid, the majority of which on cement concrete.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.—An important consideration affecting the health of the district has been the small number of notifications received under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899.

Table No. 1.

DISEASE.	Total Number of Cases.		Treated at Home.		Removed to Isolation Hospital.	
	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.
Scarlet Fever.....	36	13	15	2	21	11
Diphtheria.....	16	4	16	4	—	—
Erysipelas	7	9	7	9	—	—
Polio-Myelitis	—	1	—	1	—	—
Enteric	1	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	61	27	40	16	21	11

From this Table it will be seen that 13 cases of Scarlet Fever, 4 cases of Diphtheria, 9 cases of Erysipelas, and 1 case of Polio-Myelitis were notified, making a total of 27 cases which is the lowest on record.

Eleven cases compared with 21 of the previous year were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the rooms, clothing, bedding, &c., thoroughly disinfected. In each case, after disinfecting, the interior of the dwellings were cleansed, and in the majority of cases the walls and ceilings stripped and limewashed. It was found necessary to close, on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, 2 schools, Bredhurst and Thurnham, each of which had my personal supervision with regard to disinfection. It is also pleasing to note that no case of typhoid was notified during the year.

The following table shows the various parishes within the district from which the cases were notified :—

Table No. 2.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified in the Whole District under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899.

Disease.	Boxley.	Bredhurst.	Detling.	East Sutton.	Headcorn.	Langley.	Leeds.	Lenham.	Stockbury.	Sutton Valence.	Thurnham.	Ulcombe.	Totals.	Number removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	1	5	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	—	13	11
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
Erysipelas	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	9	—
Polio-Myelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals.....	1	5	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	5	5	1	27	11

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1912.—

During the year disinfectants have been supplied to all Tuberculosis cases notified, disinfection of rooms, clothing, etc., after death arising from Phthisis, has been carried out, and in two cases it was found necessary to destroy bedding, etc., which by order of the Council was replaced by new.

The following table shows the various parishes within the district from which the cases were notified.

Table No. 3.

Notifiable Disease.	Boxley.	Chart Sutton.	Lenham.	Hollingbourn.	Headcorn.	Thurnham.	Otterden.	Ulcombe.	Wichling.	Sutton Valence.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	18
Totals	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	18

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. - It is with much pleasure that I have to refer to the completion of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme at Lenham, which without doubt, is one of the best known systems in England.

The House connections are proceeding slowly but satisfactorily, and I hope in the next Annual Report (should it be my privilege to pen the same) to be able to say, that each house on the lines of sewers has been connected to the new system.

I am glad to report that no complaints of the smell arising from the Sewage Disposal Works at Headcorn, have been received by me during the year.

On January 22nd, 1913, the Local Government Board held an enquiry at Sutton Valence with reference to a loan of £450 for Sewage Disposal. The new Sewage Disposal Works constructed in 1912, appear to be giving every satisfaction.

The Council directed me to prepare plans and detailed sections, with specifications for a Branch Sewer at Church Walk, Headcorn, which was carried out at a cost of £58 7s. 6d.

During the year the Council has had under its consideration the question of drainage, etc., in the parishes of Leeds, Hollingbourn and Harrietsham, and have been in communication with the Parish Councils of the respective parishes, with the result, that Harrietsham has recently formed a Committee of Gentlemen (two of which with a wide experience in Sanitation generally), with a view to assisting your Council to deal with this vexed question.

It may be mentioned that due attention is paid to Housing requirements at Harrietsham, and as a consequence a reasonably efficient standard is being established. This was especially referred to in the Report on your district prepared by Dr. Constant Ponder, Assistant County Medical Officer.

Lodging and Accommodation of persons engaged in Hop-picking.—A general inspection of (1) special huts, (2) tents, (3) farm buildings occupied by hop-pickers, was made as required by the Local Government Board.

In various cases the huts were found to be insufficiently lighted and ventilated, the roofs defective and leaky, and insufficient Sanitary accommodation provided.

In each case when defects were found the owner or his agent was interviewed. With the result with one exception the work as required under your Regulations was put in hand forthwith.

Water Supply.—At the early part of the year your Council gave careful attention to a Bill which was pending in Parliament under the name of the Mid Kent and East Kent District Water Bill. The Company seeking (*inter alia*) to obtain the confirmation by Parliament of certain works constructed in the Rural District of Hollingbourn to extend the Company's limits of supply for water, and to obtain certain other powers in the Bill contained.

Your Council after due consideration deposited a petition against the Bill, praying (*inter alia*) that the Bill should not pass into law in the form in which it was deposited in Parliament, and that certain provisions should be inserted therein for the protection of the Council.

With the result the Company gave an undertaking to insert in the Bill amendments asked for by your Council, and which now forms section 45 of the Mid Kent and East Kent District Water Act, 1913, whereby the Council are enabled to have water supplies extended to certain parts of the parishes of Sutton Valence, Chart Sutton and Wormshill on very advantageous terms.

Four samples of well water used for domestic purposes have been submitted to the Public Analyst during the year, as a result of which two wells have been entirely closed, the other waters were sufficiently good to warrant a continuance of their use.

The water supply of many houses in the District has again been enquired into, with the result that 41 houses have been provided with the Company's water, making a total of 1,397 houses in the district furnished with a good and wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—The inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies has received special attention. Five new Cowsheds (to accommodate 80 cows), and five new Dairies have been erected during the year. There are 107 cowkeepers in the district and I am glad to say they are giving more attention to the cleanliness, light, ventilation, drainage, and water supply than was formerly the case.

Under the Tuberculosis Order dated February 13th, which came into operation on May 1st, 1913, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries gave notice that the Treasury has agreed to refund half the net amount payable as compensation for slaughtering animals during the first five years, the Local Authority finding the other half. The Order aims at securing the removal of all cows found to be suffering from Tuberculosis of the udder, also of all bovine animals suffering from Tuberculosis with emaciation. Local Authorities are required to cause every animal found by their Veterinary Inspector to be suffering from one of the specified forms of Tuberculosis to be slaughtered. Compensation for the full value of the animal is payable in which the post mortem examination does not show Tuberculosis.

When Tuberculosis is found, the proportion of the value of the animal payable by compensation depends on the extent of the disease.

The order prescribes the precautions to be taken in respect of the milk, &c., of suspected animals, *i.e.*, their isolation and detention whilst under supervision.

Provision is also made for dealing with suspicious animals at markets, fairs, or at sales. The payment to agriculturists of reasonable compensation for animals slaughtered in the public interest must, in the Board's opinion, be an essential feature of any well-devised scheme for gradually reducing the prevalence of tuberculosis in animals.

This order will, I have no doubt, be gladly received by Local Authorities and their officers, as well as by agriculturists, dairymen and others interested in the important matter of obtaining a pure milk supply.

Under the above order the Local Authority has notified your Council of five cows suffering from Tuberculosis. In each case I have visited the premises in question, with respect to cleaning and disinfection.

During the year your Council was notified of an outbreak of Anthrax at Kingsnorth Farm, Ulcombe, with the result that one bullock and two pigs were destroyed. Careful inspections were made of the dwelling house and farm buildings, each of which were thoroughly cleansed, limewashed and disinfected.

Factories and Workshops.—The number of factories and workshops now on the register is 85, or 5 in excess of those on the register at the end of 1912.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that few infringements of the Act have come under my notice, and when such existed it was only necessary to inform the owner or occupier of any irregularity for it to be at once rectified.

H.M. Inspector gave notice of one matter requiring attention at a bakehouse, and a visit was made at the premises and the subject of complaint was remedied.

Slaughter Houses.—The slaughter houses have been frequently inspected and with one or two exceptions have been kept in fair condition.

New Buildings, &c.—The Council approved of the plans for the following new buildings and additions :—Houses 8, Bungalows 4, Cottages 4, Stables 3, Public Hall 1, Council School 1, Workshop 1 ; Total 22.

During the year the Council instructed me to prepare reports, plans and specifications for the hereinafter mentioned works :—

Lenham, Sewers and House Connections.

Chart Sutton, Water Supply.

Sutton Valence „

Headcorn „

Boughton Malherbe „

Wormshill „

Stockbury „

Headcorn, Public Hall.

Wormshill, Building Estate.

Headcorn, New Sewer, &c.

Sutton Valence „

Infectious Hospital, Internal Painting, &c.

Ulcombe, Water Mains.

To obtain the result indicated in this report 517 letters, 186 intimations, and 63 statutory notices have been issued, and 2,408 inspections and re-inspections made.

Such in brief is the history of another year's work ; taken as a whole I trust it will be regarded as satisfactory by the Council.

In conclusion I desire to express my respectful thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Council generally for their support, and also to the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Tuke), and the Clerk (Mr. Bracher) and his staff, who have at all times given me their valued advice and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. APPS,

Sanitary Inspector.